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TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Proposals for improving the clearing-house capacity of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The growth that has taken place in the areas of computerization and electronic data processing, which has affected all disciplines, can also be noticed in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. This report reviews past and current trends and makes proposals related to the improvement of the clearing-house functions of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The main goal of the report is to provide to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in pursuance of its resolution 3/3, a platform for the enhancement of the clearing-house functions of the programme, thus facilitating the global interchange of ideas, official documents, working papers, statistical data, statutes and any other materials relevant to government officials, practitioners, policy makers and researchers involved in crime prevention and criminal justice.

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CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	*Page*
INTRODUCTION	1-4	3
I. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE	5-32	3
A. Electronic exchange of information	6-12	4
B. Computerization of criminal justice administration	13-18	5
C. Collection and dissemination of criminal justice data and information	19-32	6
II. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: GOALS AND TASKS	33-48	9
A. Goals	33	9
B. Tasks	34-48	9
Annex. Member States of the Commission with full Internet connections		16

INTRODUCTION

1. Since 1972, with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3021 (XXVII), the Secretariat has been increasingly involved in rendering practical assistance in data collection, in the sharing of information and experience to achieve the goals of preventing crime within and between States and in improving the response to crime by periodically issuing surveys of global crime trends. Gradually, over 20 years, the Secretariat has intensified its work in these areas by conducting more comprehensive surveys and providing more accurate and timely information on crime and its control in the world. It has also expanded its clearing-house functions into the area of the electronic exchange of information in pursuance of the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/11 and, in 1990, into the area of computerization of criminal justice administration in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/109.

2. Following the recommendations of the Commission at its first session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1992/22, section VI, paragraph 1 (c), determined that the Commission should place a high priority, both in time and resource allocations, during the period 1992-1996, to efficiency, fairness and improvement in the management and administration of criminal justice and related systems, with due emphasis on the strengthening of national capacities in developing countries for the regular collection, collation, analysis and utilization of data in the development and implementation of appropriate policies. In selecting such a priority theme, the Commission was guided by the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex, section II, paras. 16, 17, 41 and 42.

3. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Council, in its resolution 1993/34, section IV, C, paragraph 2, invited Member States to consider the provision of extrabudgetary resources, including but not restricted to the secondment of computer-programming professionals with criminal justice experience to the Secretariat in order to assist in the orderly transfer of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network,[1] and to provide support for its further logistical and substantive development. In section IV, C, paragraph 3, the Commission further requested the Secretary-General, as resources permitted, *inter alia* (a) to strengthen and expand the clearing-house functions of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch; (b) to organize training courses that would enable criminal justice professionals, in particular those in developing countries, to acquaint themselves with the services of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network; and (c) to establish a support system for developing countries that would, among other things, ensure that basic costs connected with the provision of the necessary modalities, including the costs of membership in the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network and transmission costs, are covered.

4. The present report has been prepared in pursuance of resolution 3/3 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which consolidates the Secretariat's work in this field. In particular, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to consider strengthening the servicing of the clearing-house projects, including the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and Crime Prevention Strategies and computerization projects by allocating staff and other resources commensurate with the intensification of work on those projects, and to submit to the Commission a statement on the financial implications involved in improving the undertaking of such projects.

I. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

5. The improvement of the information exchange and clearing-house functions of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme was based on a three-pronged strategy involving: (a) a system for the electronic exchange of information; (b) computerization of criminal justice administration; and (c) collection and dissemination of criminal justice data and information. The following sections review activities related to past developments and explore possible directions for future action.

A. Electronic exchange of information

6. Addressing recent technological advancements and developments in the information environment, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1986/11, paragraph 5 (a), requested the Secretary-General to establish, in cooperation with the United Nations institutes and other entities concerned, a global crime and criminal justice information network, including a mechanism for the centralization of input from non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions.

7. Due to the lack of funds in the regular programme budget, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch was obliged to identify alternative sources of funding and, in cooperation with the School of Criminal Justice, State University of New York (Albany, New York), established in 1989 the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network. Since its creation, the Network has operated on an extrabudgetary basis by the School of Criminal Justice at Albany which, in the period 1990-1993, received funding for the Network from the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics and from the University itself. Since September 1994, the Network has been maintained by the *pro bono publico*[2] efforts of members of the School of Criminal Justice, at Albany (E/CN.15/1994/3, paras. 10-20).

8. With the help of the United States National Institute of Justice, a needs assessment study was made of the information exchange and clearing-house capability, present and potential, of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. At the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo, from 29 April to 8 May 1995, the present and potential functions of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme were discussed extensively (A/CONF.169/4 and 13 and Add.1).

9. From the above discussion it emerged that, notwithstanding the potential of the electronic exchange of information, and although much information exists already in a computerized form in the criminal justice field, few attempts have been made to deal with the collection and provision of information systematically and to make it accessible to requesting parties. Technological advantages can only be enjoyed by those who have basic skills and technical capacities in electronic networking[3] and, clearly, the developed world has an advantage in this regard. In this connection, it is necessary not only to collect and disseminate information on crime prevention and criminal justice, but also to provide assistance to developing countries in the use of electronic networking tools so that national and international materials can be distributed worldwide.

10. Another difficulty is that, despite the overall influence of the electronic exchange of information on the decentralization of bureaucracy and the strengthening of the role of local communities, the use of such information has been monopolized by English-language countries, which makes non-English language countries dependent on the information produced by them.[4] While recent developments in automatic text translation have started to redress this imbalance, combating crime at the international level requires accurate and timely information on crime and justice that can be not only safely and securely used, but also widely shared among all interested countries, developed and developing.

11. The international dissemination of data and other relevant materials is common to any system of recipients and producers of information. On the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its second session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1992/22, section I, paragraph 3 (i), requested the Secretariat to determine, in cooperation with Governments and interregional and regional institutes, categories of crime prevention and criminal justice information to be supplied to and exchanged through the Network, taking into account priorities specified by the Commission, with a view to ensuring more effective functioning of the Network.

12. The Commission may also be interested in the fact that several agencies have made efforts to establish international electronic networks in the developing world. For example, the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) has instituted electronic connections throughout the developing world for its resident representative offices. The 94 UNDP offices connected via the Internet include 27 in Africa, 27 in Asia, 20 in Latin America and 14 in eastern Europe. In a similar effort, as an attempt to improve the transmission of documents between its headquarters and member States, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) initiated among its 154 member States a pilot scheme for the establishment of an electronic bulletin board containing all pre-session documents of forthcoming meetings as well as notes verbale, circulation letters and circulars dispatched by IMO in a printed version in the three working languages (English, French and Spanish). As of 1 April 1995, the scheme covers 16 developed and developing countries[5] that opted to join the experiment and it is being supported by the Government of Canada.[6] The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) assisted the Pan African News Agency in organizing a network linked by satellite that will allow its bureaus in 13 African countries to have Internet linkage (A/CONF.169/13/Add.1, annex). UNESCO has also been promoting international education through the electronic exchange of information between 3,300 primary and secondary schools in 113 countries.[7] As of 6 May 1995, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has established a network of Internet connections between 17 field offices.

B. Computerization of criminal justice administration

13. A global information exchange and the proper functioning of other clearing-house functions of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme is based on the assumption that there is a growing process of computerization of the criminal justice administrative agencies in all Member States. The electronic exchange of information is only useful if information is stored and shared according to some predetermined scheme. The computerization of criminal justice administration requires system-wide planning, monitoring and evaluation, subjects discussed extensively at the Ninth Congress (A/CONF.169/13), including its ancillary symposium on computerization of criminal justice information.

14. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/109, requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the affiliated institutes to establish a technical cooperation programme for the systematization and computerization of criminal justice. The Assembly, and later the Commission on Crime Prevention and Control in its resolution 3/3, also requested the Secretary-General to establish a group of experts on the criminal justice management and information projects, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary support from Member States, interregional and non-governmental organizations and the private sector (A/CONF.169/13). On a related note, the Eighth Congress also requested the Secretary-General to appoint a group of experts to advise him on the design, development, implementation and analysis of future United Nations crime and criminal justice statistical surveys (A/CONF.169/13, sect. VII).

15. Unfortunately, due to lack of financial support, neither of those two requests could be implemented and no such expert groups were established. As noted earlier, the entire involvement of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in the computerization of criminal justice can be regarded as less than satisfactory and clearly disproportionate to the present widespread needs in this respect. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/34, noted the disparity between the need for technical assistance and the resources available for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

16. Addressing the issues of the computerization of criminal justice administration requires expertise and advice which, because of the limited resources available, could be provided only sporadically by the Secretariat of the United Nations and cooperating institutes on crime prevention and control. This process involves a consistent and lasting political commitment at the executive level, training of trainers and the capacity to maintain and continuously develop the information systems. When implemented adequately, however, the computerization process of criminal justice administration may be a means of strengthening the accountability and transparency of governance. For example, computerization in the law enforcement sector

should be followed in the public prosecutors' offices, courts and prisons to enable the entire criminal justice system to coordinate its internal actions in order to function in a transparent, accountable and democratic manner.

17. To enhance the process of computerization of criminal justice administration, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, assisted the Branch in the organization of a number of missions at the request of the Member States involved in dealing with this issue. In some cases, computerization projects were technically sophisticated but lacked administrative coherence. Sometimes, both elements were lacking. In other cases, involvement of the private sector was ill conceived, because the requesting authorities had no independent advice. Some of these problems may have been avoided had there been a forum for the interchange of ideas and methods involved in the computerization of criminal justice administration. A properly functioning clearing-house would provide such a forum.

18. Despite such occasional drawbacks, several successes have also been achieved in the computerization of criminal justice administration, considering that many national agencies have created fully functioning computer systems. There is, however, a need to share the benefits of this process among all countries. Particularly for those in the process of computerization, this expertise could be very valuable. If Member States would be ready to establish an information base that would allow for the broad exchange of the needed material, it could be the role of the Secretariat to create such a repository of information concerning successful national experiences, in order to make them available to requesting countries. In addition, the consolidation of materials would help to reduce the duplication of efforts, which would be a positive factor in view of the financial limitations in developmental aid.

C. Collection and dissemination of criminal justice data and information

19. As mandated by General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex, and other relevant resolutions, a number of regular international surveys have been conducted to assess trends in crime and developments in the operation of criminal justice systems and in crime prevention strategies. Specifically, the United Nations surveys seek to respond to the needs and concerns of Member States, as reflected particularly in General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex, II. D, which highlights the importance of empirical evidence, including research findings and other information on the nature and extent of crime and on trends in crime and the social, financial and other costs of various forms of crime and/or crime control to the individual, the local, national and international community and to the development process.

20. The regular exchange of reliable facts and figures about the national and transnational dimensions of crime is one of the most useful services that the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme can provide. Information on crime and justice in the world not only contributes to raising the necessary awareness of these problems, but also gives grounds for re-prioritizing the crime and justice issues on the working agendas of governmental officials and others, in line with the requirements of accountability and transparency of public administration, thus enhancing good governance. This is urgently needed since, for example, the average percentage of the annual gross domestic product devoted to criminal justice is not only low, but also decreasing. According to the results of the Fourth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, criminal justice expenditures decreased in real terms from 1.5 per cent in 1986 to 1.2 per cent in 1990 (A/CONF.169/15, section III (C)), which may be a further confirmation that criminal justice is struggling against other important priorities.

21. Such data, although merely an example of the kind of information generated by the United Nations surveys, demonstrate the usefulness of the service provided. However, such usefulness is a function of the availability of relevant information, of its reliability - particularly when reflecting comparative perspectives - and of its timely and widespread distribution. It is only through adequate dissemination of the survey data that the Commission could expect them to aid in the development of crime prevention and criminal justice

policies worldwide. Logically, the vehicle for the dissemination of the results of the crime surveys would be the larger electronic exchange of information, to be regularly provided by an effective clearing-house service.

22. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1992/22, section IV, paragraph 4, recognizes the Commission as the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, truly asserting such an international role can be done not only by referring to the resolution but also by issuing highly visible reports that incorporate crime and justice issues and policies into the global agenda. Many of the important requests of the international criminal justice community and, especially, of the General Assembly and the Commission, which repeatedly emphasize the value of the crime surveys and related clearing-house projects, will remain unanswered, however, if they are not matched with the necessary follow-up. Without commensurate action by the Commission, some of the priorities listed by the United Nations programming bodies cannot be implemented, and the policies of the Commission cannot be effectively communicated within the United Nations system and outside of it.

United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems

23. The main source of global information on crime and justice trends in the world is the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, which have been carried out regularly since 1977 (the results of the latest one were presented as an interim report to the Ninth Congress in document A/CONF.169/15).

24. Recognizing their increasing value, the Council, in its resolution 1992/22, decided that the cycle of these surveys should be shortened from quinquennial to biennial. However, no commensurate resources were provided to meet the requirement to intensify implementation of this important project. A number of organizational difficulties in carrying out the surveys are discussed in the interim report, some of which also arise on the part of responding Governments (A/CONF.169/15, section V, para. 66). It should be stressed that the improvement of the number and quality of replies to the surveys depend largely on strengthening the capabilities and commitment of responding countries in collecting and providing criminal justice statistics. Again, in terms of the interdependence of all components of the larger information exchange and clearing-house functions, the Commission should note that the quality of responses and the rate at which Member States are able to complete the surveys is *inter alia* dependent on the level of the computerization of criminal justice administration, as discussed above.

25. The following account from Papua New Guinea demonstrating the difficulties in maintaining criminal justice statistics is indicative of what may be general problems: Data entry staff ... were six months or more behind in the entry of crime report data, no statistical table production programmes appear to have been written, there was no ongoing regime for training officers in the field in relation to the completion of crime reports and there was no routine comparison of police occurrence pad entries with crime reports for audit purposes.[8] In responding to the Fourth Survey, there were several countries and territories which left 90 per cent or more of the survey questionnaire blank (A/CONF.169/15, sect. V) and there were replies that were hastily completed in either case, it may be assumed that the preparation of replies requires improved technical capability of the respondent as well as a greater commitment from the Branch to provide assistance.

26. The Commission should be aware that, although the goal of the biennial provision of crime trends data was to aid in the routinization of the survey, the experiences with the Fourth Survey indicate that additional stress may have been placed on the respondents. It took almost two years or even longer for many countries to reply to the last survey, in spite of the fact that, compared with previous ones, it was simpler and was actively followed up by the Secretariat.

27. On a related note, the Survey on Trends in Transnational Crime (A/CONF.169/15/Add.1), which originated as a supplement to the Fourth Survey, encountered complex legal problems. Most important among them are the definitional ones, but there are also others related to proper reporting and recording. In preparation for the next survey on transnational crime, it would be necessary to review all these problems and identify alternative approaches. Also before collecting transnational crime statistics, adequate time and resources should be allocated to this Survey, in order to remedy problems.

28. The Commission may wish to consider these and related issues, in the light of the discussions of the Ninth Congress and make appropriate recommendations.

Reporting on crime and justice in the world

29. At the international level, there are several examples of successful publications such as the *World Economic and Social Survey: Current Trends and Policies in the World Economy* and *The World Ageing Situation*, both issued by the United Nations, the *Human Development Report* by the United Nations Development Programme, the *World Development Report* by the World Bank, and the *World Education Report* by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

30. In contrast, the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular the Commission, is not yet at a point where it can issue regular reports on crime and justice in the world, although it has been planning, since 1991, to launch such a publication. The idea for a report on crime and justice in the world by the United Nations was developed at meetings organized on the initiative of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/CN.15/1994/2). Subsequently, provisions for its publication were made in the programme budget (A/CONF.169/13, sect. VI). However, neither in the present nor in the next biennium could consultancy funds be identified.

31. Due to the very limited possibilities of undertaking work on the global crime and justice report, the Branch and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute sought to continue work on this report by obtaining some extrabudgetary funds and commitments of a number of experts to work at no cost to the United Nations (E/CN.15/1994/2, sect. II, para. 17). Meanwhile, together with the cooperating institutes, preliminary reports have been issued, such as those for the Ninth Congress. Given the amount of work still to be done, it is doubtful, though, if the first report could be finalized within the present biennium. It is the intent, by publishing such reports, to contribute to building a comprehensive and contemporary picture of crime prevention and criminal justice in Member States (A/CONF.169/CRP.2) .

32. The Commission may be aware of the following example which demonstrates the labour and resources required to compile a worldwide report. The UNDP *Human Development Report 1994*[9] was prepared by a group of 61 drafters of special studies whose work was managed by a specially created Human Development Report Office, which also coordinated the input from a number of other external and internal sources. In comparison, the biennial United Nations crime surveys, which will be the major source of information for the first report on crime and justice in the world by the United Nations, and numerous crime trends reports as well as the *Human Development Report* are administered by one Professional staff member and one General Service staff member. In the light of this comparison, the earlier view expressed to the Commission, that it would be very unfortunate if this project were allowed to deteriorate (E/CN.15/1994/2, sect. II), is relevant for both the success of the first crime and justice report in the world and the biennial surveys.

II. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: GOALS AND TASKS

A. Goals

33. Responding to the general trend in developing the electronic exchange of information and in pursuance of Council resolution 1993/34 calling for the strengthening and expansion of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, the Secretariat has initiated studies on the further development of that Network with a view to designing and implementing a properly functioning on-line crime and justice clearing-house. While its ultimate objective would be to strengthen the capacities of national Governments to produce, acquire, store, analyse and disseminate electronic information in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the intermediate goals can be summarized as follows:

(a) Electronic exchange of information - to serve as an effective broker between intergovernmental, non-governmental and other relevant organizations, sectors of public administration and the private sector, including individual experts and other professionals; and to provide regularly electronic information on crime and justice to Governments, other entities and individuals;

(b) Computerizing criminal justice administration - to facilitate the computerization process by promoting the introduction and more widespread use of automated data processing in, and exchange of such data between, criminal justice systems with a view to the more efficient and humane treatment of offenders, as well as assist developing countries in the transfer of know-how on such computerization, by facilitating or carrying out missions to identify problems in criminal justice management information and proposing solutions tailored to local conditions;

(c) Collection and dissemination of criminal justice data and information - to analyse the results of the periodic crime surveys and prepare the data for electronic dissemination, as well as to improve the survey on transnational crime (A/CONF.169/15/Add.1), and to produce the report on crime and justice in the world, also in a format which would permit electronic dissemination.

B. Tasks

34. To achieve the above-mentioned goals, a number of major tasks to be accomplished have been identified both within the current biennium and in the following one.

Current programme budget (1994-1995)

35. During the current biennium, with respect to the electronic exchange of information, the following tasks will have been accomplished by the end of the year:

(a) Transfer of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network from the University at Albany to the Vienna University and the United Nations Office at Vienna;

(b) Carry out a needs assessment study with the assistance of the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice, which will review the existing and projected programme facilities and resources devoted to the clearing-house functions with a primary focus on the electronic exchange of information;

(c) Publish the third edition of the Handbook on the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network;

(d) Produce the UNCJIN Crime and Justice letter (No. 3/4);

(e) Develop several databases.

36. With reference to (e) above, there are various mandates requesting the Secretariat to establish or develop and maintain a number of databases, including the Network and the crime surveys. The other databases cover the following subjects:

(a) Country profiles, as part of the services to be provided through the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network and in fulfilment of the clearing-house functions of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

(b) Current technical assistance projects;

(c) Available training opportunities and facilities;

(d) Needs of Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and the possibilities for technical cooperation, including financial resources;

(e) Roster of experts in different disciplines in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(f) Legislation and methods for preventing and combating crime by means of extradition, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, transfer of criminal proceedings, transfer of penal sanctions and transfer of prisoners;

(g) Measures for tracing, monitoring and forfeiture of the proceeds of crime, monitoring of large-scale cash transactions and other means of preventing and controlling the laundering of the proceeds of crime;

(h) Sentences imposed for the offence of trafficking in drugs, arms and persons, terrorism and offences against ecosystems and cultural property;

(i) Environmental protection through the use of criminal law;

(j) Crimes against the cultural heritage;

(k) Preventive measures and public policies dealing with such crimes as burglaries, violent theft and street crime, on the basis of in-depth assessments and evaluation of their effectiveness in various cultural, economic and political contexts;

(l) Education, training and public awareness campaigns in crime prevention;

(m) Criminal justice education, including the availability of programmes in institutions of higher education and their content, for use by developing countries in seeking assistance, fellowships and scholarships for the education of their cadres or replication in their own educational institutions;

(n) Comprehensive measures for the prevention of victimization and the protection of and assistance to victims, including special categories, such as victims of terrorism.

37. While the topics of these databases, as recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, have global policy relevance, their development is a task which is dependent on a number of factors, first the regular provision of data and information from Governments and other sources. If resources permit, work will continue on these databases. In particular, work on two databases is being supported through the activities related to the interregional advisory services in the field of crime prevention

and control. The two databases concerned are: (a) results of the survey of available training opportunities and facilities; and (b) needs of Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and possibilities for technical cooperation, including financial resources. A third database, on the roster of experts in different disciplines in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, has been supported by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (E/CN.15/1994/3). Further, the European Institute has begun to develop a fourth database on country criminal justice profiles in the European context. Without additional extrabudgetary funding, however, work on the remaining databases will have to be confined to identifying other ways and means for their maintenance, which includes the provisional listing of relevant documentation.

38. In addition to these tasks, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/34, requested the Secretary-General to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the texts of the standards contained in the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*.[10] As discussed at the third session of the Commission, Member States would appreciate receiving relevant information in return for their own responses to United Nations questionnaires (E/CN.15/1994/7). Since the widest possible dissemination includes electronic dissemination, it appears that the programme is being requested to create yet another database.

39. No specific plans are envisaged for the second half of 1995 regarding the computerization of criminal justice administration.

40. As part of the services provided for the dissemination of relevant criminal justice data and information, the results of the last survey of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems will be made available electronically via the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network. Similarly, the working papers and the other documents of the Ninth Congress will also be placed in the Network for electronic distribution.

41. Resources primarily committed to these tasks include:

(a) One Professional officer (up to 50 per cent of staff member's time), with the overall responsibility of developing information systems, including policy and publications planning and organizational matters;

(b) One Professional officer working full-time on the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network and the crime surveys (temporary recruitment);

(c) One General Service staff member providing full-time reference and documentation services to the Branch, including outside requests made to it;

(d) One General Service staff member (up to 50 per cent of his/her time) providing secretarial support to two Professional staff members.

42. In sum, a total of 1.5 Professional staff members, and 1.5 General Service staff members is being devoted to the implementation of the above-mentioned tasks.[11]

Proposed programme budget (1996-1997)

43. With regard to the electronic exchange of information, the following major tasks are envisaged:

(a) Conducting a series of intensive Internet training courses for Branch staff members to increase their awareness of the basic concepts of the Internet and its information services, existing on-line resources, as well as search and retrieval techniques, in order to develop fuller appreciation of new information technologies and competence in using them;

(b) Arranging for the use of designated storage and Internet server capacities for relevant United Nations documents, for the distribution of responsibilities for technical support and information services and for adjusting the local computer configuration to prepare it for uploading documents;

(c) Secondment, by those Member States wishing to do so, of staff members with expertise in criminal justice and computerized information systems to assist the system administrators for the document database on a full-time basis;

(d) Developing documentation for the end-users, including manuals on different aspects of electronic networking, ranging from general Internet concepts to specific policies and procedures on the use of the United Nations on-line crime and justice clearing-house;

(e) Making arrangements with Governments and other Branch correspondents, where available, to communicate, where feasible, electronically (e.g. United Nations documentation), in order to reduce the costs associated with shipping and handling;

(f) Developing cooperative arrangements between the Branch and the affiliated institutes by determining each party's role, responsibilities and management procedures with respect to collecting, processing and disseminating crime and justice information;

(g) Conducting, in consultation with interested institutes, a series of field trips to be undertaken by Branch members or consultants, to assist the affiliated institutes in setting up full Internet connections; providing on-the-job training for librarians or information specialists; assisting them, as expertise develops, in setting up their own Internet servers or leasing space from regional Internet service providers; and consulting on the process of digitizing the materials of institutes and making them available on-line.

44. With regard to the question of computerization of criminal justice administration, the following tasks would be accomplished:

(a) Introducing criminal justice officials to the general principles of computerization of criminal justice and its potential in the daily management of justice;

(b) Making arrangements to facilitate a transfer of know-how and technologies between States equipped with a computerized criminal justice system and developing countries, including the planning and management of computerization projects;

(c) Establishing a computerized database on bilateral technical assistance projects involving the computerization of criminal justice administration with a view to making information on related experiences available to requesting donor and recipient countries;

(d) Developing cooperative arrangements between the Branch and the interregional and regional institutes with a view to participating fully in the projects proposed by the envisaged group of experts, including the subcontracting of such projects, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/109;

(e) Coordinating the distribution of documentation, i.e. directories, on computer applications in criminal justice administration, on the basis of surveys of such applications and individual projects carried out at the request of Member States;

(f) Coordinating training efforts of senior staff involved in promoting the computerization of criminal justice administration, i.e. training of trainers, with a view to developing capacities for further self-reliant modernization of criminal justice management operations.

45. With respect to the collection and dissemination of criminal justice data and information, the major tasks would be to systematize and streamline the process of data-gathering and analysis. This would include the publication of the results of the Fifth Survey in the United Nations report on crime and justice in the world and the development of the next survey on transnational crime, as well as intensification of the collaborative efforts among the network of institutes with a view to improving and expanding the regional analysis of the data generated by the Fifth Survey.

46. While for the accomplishment of many of the above-mentioned tasks, appropriate provisions have been made in the proposals for the next programme budget, there remain other activities that can be implemented only if extrabudgetary resources are made available.

47. In particular, the following has been recommended for inclusion in the programme budget for the next biennium, 1996-1997 (E/CN.15/1995/10):

Electronic exchange of information

(a) Establishment of one additional Professional post at P-3 level to strengthen the capacity in developing and maintaining the relevant databases to facilitate research and analysis, including those on organized national and transnational crime;

(b) Convening one interregional seminar on the collection, collation, analysis and utilization of crime prevention and criminal justice data, including the use of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network;

(c) One periodic publication: UNCJIN Crime and Justice Letter;

(d) Technical material: United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network and updating of databases on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems, including computer diskettes containing such data.

Computerization of criminal justice administration

(a) Advisory services on needs assessment in the computerization of criminal justice administration.

Collection and dissemination of criminal justice data and information

(a) Conduct of the Sixth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems;

(b) Expert group meeting on the analysis of the results of the Fifth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems;

(c) Publication of a report on crime and justice in the world, wall chart and leaflets on trends in crime and justice in the world.

(c) Additional extrabudgetary activities

48. The activities that follow could be implemented only if additional voluntary funds were forthcoming:

Electronic exchange of information

(a) One expert group meeting on criminal justice management and information projects;

(b) Convening an interregional training course on electronic exchange of information;[12]

(c) Establishing 40 Internet/UNCJIN connections (computer hardware, software, telecommunication fees) for requesting present and future members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice from developing countries (see annex). It may be recalled that UNDP, through its programme on democracy, governance and citizen participation, has established electronic links with its resident representative offices and with headquarters, according to the list of UNDP offices distributed at the fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.15/1995/CRP.3). It may be advisable to look into that project with a view to its relevance to the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network;

(d) The electronic scanning of Branch documentation with a view to its electronic dissemination via the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, to Member States, other entities and experts;

(e) The establishment of five regional database servers (computer hardware and software) in the requesting institutes or other entities cooperating or planning to cooperate within the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

(f) The preparation and printing of 1,000 brochures promoting the electronic exchange of information and other clearing-house projects outlined in this proposal.

Computerization of criminal justice administration

(a) The convening of one interregional training course for managers and other professionals from developing countries on the principles of the computerization of criminal justice administration;

(b) Additional needs assessment missions to determine the type of criminal justice information available in Member States and the feasibility of incorporating those materials into larger information exchange and other clearing-house projects.

Collection and dissemination of criminal justice data and information

(a) One publication: Guide on development and analysis of criminal justice statistics, including the question of transnational crime;

(b) The commissioning and coordination of the preparation of 20 consultancies in preparation for drafting the report on crime and justice in the world;

(c) The convening of a small expert group meeting on the development of the questionnaire on transnational crime, including input to the extrabudgetary guide on development and analysis of criminal justice statistics proposed above, covering also the question of transnational crime.

Notes

[1]Now the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, which is how it will be referred to henceforth.

[2]Made without compensation for the public good.

[3]See Ugljesa Zvekic and Donald James Weatherburn, *Papua New Guinea: Crime and Criminal Justice Information*, Issues and Reports No. 3 (Rome, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, 1994), pp. 5 and 13-16.

[4]As an example, this picture has gradually changed due to the broader involvement of the Internet in the French-speaking community. There now exist French language discussion groups in the legal field. In celebration of the United Nations International Year of the Family, students from several secondary schools were provided with an automatic translation facility for correspondence with their foreign counterparts. This project, called "Family net", was sponsored by the Global SchoolNet Foundation.

[5]Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cyprus, France, Italy, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[6]International Maritime Organization, "Note by the Secretary-General: consideration of the interim report on the pilot study of the electronic transmission of meeting documents", 8 March 1995 (C74/16).

[7]United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "Associated Schools Project for promoting international education for peace, human rights, democracy and international understanding: list of participating institutions" (ED.94/WS.32).

[8]See Zvekic and Weatherburn, p. 4.

[9]United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 1994* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1995), pp. v-vi.

[10]United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.IV.1.

[11]This includes the work of a Professional staff member assigned to fully deal with the transfer of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network computerization projects, and crime trends surveys, the reporting cycle of which was shortened from a quinquennial to a biennial one (Council resolution 1992/22, sect. I, para. 3 (g)) It may be recalled in this connection, that at the time of the Fourth Survey, which was the last one conducted within a quinquennial cycle, the analysis of the survey data was also supported by extrabudgetary funds, particularly, from the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and by an informal group of experts working at no cost to the United Nations, who were involved for years in promoting the results of the periodic United Nations surveys.

[12]The Government of the Republic of Korea made an offer during the Ninth Congress to convene a meeting (A/CONF.169/16, sect. IV, para. 64).

Annex

MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMISSION WITH FULL INTERNET CONNECTIONS

As of February 1995, the following States members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had full Internet connections that allow for electronic mail and database access and development: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand, Tunisia and United States of America.